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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Rositsa Concentration Camp/Power Project

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DATE OF INFO

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3. [redacted] the Rositsa concentration camp about 20 kilometers east of Pavlikeni where a large hydroelectric and irrigation project was under construction.
4. The Rositsa project consisted of three camps and a total of 2700 to 2800 workers. Camp #1 consisted of a settlement of about 1500 people. These were doctors, teachers, and other professional people who had "volunteered" to work as manual laborers for three to six months. These workers had their families with them and received pay for their labor. There were no barbed wired fences or guards at Camp #1, and there was bus service to Pavlikeni for the people living in Camp #1.
5. [redacted] Camp #2, which was located about five kilometers east of #1. Camp #2 held about four hundred prisoners, largely professional people and former government officials who were accused of opposing the Communist regime.
6. Camp #2 was surrounded by barbed wire, and there was an armed police guard for every ten prisoners. All prisoners lived in one long barrack, 30 men to each room. The rooms had triple tiers of bunks all along the walls. Each room had one electric light bulb. The electricity came from Pavlikeni.
7. The prisoners were not permitted to shave as razors could be used to commit suicide. [redacted]
8. There were no medical facilities available at Camp #2. Only if a prisoner was seriously sick or injured was he taken to Camp #1 where medical facilities were available.

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9. Prisoners in Camp #2 were forced to work 12 to 13 hours a day, seven days a week. Rations consisted of one bowl of watery soup and 300 grams of bread a day. [redacted]
10. The Rositsa project consisted of a dam, a hydroelectric station, and an irrigation tunnel. The dam was to be 15 meters high, and 200 to 300 meters long when completed. The reservoir created by this dam would contain five hundred thousand cubic meters of water.
11. The dam was constructed by laborers from Camp #1, engineered by Bulgarian engineers and supervised by Soviet personnel.
12. [redacted] the Rositsa dam was so poorly constructed that it was blown up and was being rebuilt. The Soviets accused the Bulgarians of poor engineering. [redacted] water seeping through cracks in the concrete.
13. Prisoners in Camp #2 were working on a big irrigation tunnel through a hill. This tunnel was to be 400 meters long, six meters wide and six meters high.
14. [redacted] Because the guards were afraid that prisoners would steal dynamite and/or blasting caps, a very close control was maintained over the explosives.
15. The explosives were stored in a small building near the entrance to the tunnel. Dynamite and fuses were counted and handed out by a guard. The fuses were timed to set off the dynamite charges at one minute intervals. If the number of the blasts did not coincide with the number of charges the guard had handed out, the prisoner responsible was immediately stripped and searched.
16. The rock was cleaned out of the tunnel after each blasting operation. The work was done on a 3-shift basis. Each shift worked 12-13 hours. Each prisoner had a work quota to fulfill. If a prisoner did not fulfill his quota, he was forced to continue working even after his own shift had left the job.

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